10/726,315

PATENT
Docket No. 52049US018

LASER ADDRESSABLE THERMAL TRANSFER IMAGING ELEMENT WITH AN INTERLAYER

PS 2/04/04

which is a con of 10/219,429 08/15/02 Pat 6582,877

This is a continuation of Serial No. 10/440,689, filed May 19, 2003, which is a continuation of Serial No. ~~09/738,775~~ 09/738,735, filed December 15, 2000, now Pat ~~6582877~~ 6461,793 which is a continuation of Serial No. 09/553,294, now Pat. No. 6,270,934, filed April 20, 2000, which is a continuation of Serial No. 09/349,329, now Pat. No. 6,099,994, filed July 8, 1999, which is a continuation of Serial No. 09/031,941, now Pat. No. 5,981,136, filed February 27, 1998, which is a divisional of Serial No. 08/632,225, now Pat. No. 5,725,989, filed April 15, 1996.

FIELD OF INVENTION

This invention relates to thermal transfer imaging elements, in particular, to laser addressable thermal transfer elements having an interlayer between a radiation-absorbing/thermal conversion layer and a transferable layer. In addition, the invention relates to a method of using the thermal transfer element in a thermal transfer system such as a laser addressable system.

BACKGROUND

With the increase in electronic imaging information capacity and use, a need for imaging systems capable of being addressed by a variety of electronic sources is also increasing. Examples of such imaging systems include thermal transfer, ablation (or transparentization) and ablation-transfer imaging. These imaging systems have been shown to be useful in a wide variety of applications, such as, color proofing, color filter arrays for liquid crystal display devices, printing plates, and reproduction masks.

The traditional method of recording electronic information with a thermal transfer imaging medium utilizes a thermal printhead as the energy source. The information is transmitted as electrical energy to the printhead causing a localized heating of a thermal transfer donor sheet which then transfers material corresponding to the image data to a receptor sheet. The two primary types of thermal transfer donor